General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5169

____HB05169GAE___032309___

AN ACT CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS IN TOWNS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1   Section 1. Section 9-190 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2   following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

3   [Any] Each town [divided into two voting districts may, by vote of
4   its legislative body,] shall provide for the election of two registrars of
5   voters [for each voting district instead of two registrars of voters] for
6   the entire town. Each registrar of voters shall reside in the town [and
7   district] for which he is elected. Any special act to the contrary
8   notwithstanding, in each municipality in which registrars of voters are
9   elected, no elector shall vote for more than one registrar of voters [for
10   the voting district in which the elector resides, or, as the case may be,]
11   for the municipality. [at large.] The candidate having the highest
12   number of votes and the candidate having the next highest number of
13   votes for the office of registrar of voters, who does not belong to the
14   same political party as the candidate having the highest number, shall
15   be declared elected registrars of voters for the municipality [or
16   district,] provided, if the candidate for registrar of voters of a major
17   party is not one of the registrars so elected, such candidate of such
18   major party shall also be declared elected registrar of voters. For
19   purposes of this section, a major party shall be one having the largest
20   or next largest total number of enrolled party members in the state, as
21   determined by the latest enrollment records in the office of the

22   Secretary of the State submitted in accordance with the provisions of
23   section 9-65, as amended by this act. **[**The term of office of all registrars
24   of voters for voting districts in office on January 7, 1995, shall expire on
25   January 8, 1997, and on November 5, 1996, two registrars shall be
26   elected for each municipality with more than two voting districts
27   which previously elected registrars of voters for voting districts.**]**

28   Sec. 2. Section 9-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the
29   following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

30   Each registrar of voters or, in the absence of a registrar, his deputy,
31   and each town clerk or, in the absence of a town clerk, one of his
32   assistant town clerks shall be compensated by the municipality which
33   he represents, as herein provided, for attending two conferences a year
34   for town clerks and registrars of voters which may be called by the
35   Secretary of the State for the purpose of discussing the election laws,
36   procedures or matters related thereto. Each such official shall be
37   compensated by his municipality at the rate of thirty-five dollars per
38   day for attending each such conference, plus mileage to and from such
39   conference at a rate per mile determined by the municipality, but not
40   less than twenty cents per mile, computed from the office of such
41   official or, if he has no office, from his home to the place where such
42   conference is being held. **[**In towns divided into two voting districts
43   which elect registrars of voters for each voting district, only two
44   registrars of opposite political parties need be so compensated for each
45   such conference and, if the registrars are unable to agree as to the two
46   registrars to be so compensated, such determination shall be made at
47   least three days prior to such conference by the chief executive officer
48   of the municipality.**]**

49   Sec. 3. Section 9-53 of the general statutes is repealed and the
50   following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

51   The registrars of voters in each municipality in which an enrollment
52   session is to be held shall give notice of such session, and of the
53   purpose, day, hours and place thereof, by publication in a newspaper

54 published in or having a circulation in such municipality, not more
55 than fifteen nor less than five days before such session. Nothing herein
56 shall require that such publication be in the form of a legal
57 advertisement. **[**In each municipality divided into two voting districts
58 which elects registrars of voters for each voting district, any session for
59 enrollment in such municipality shall be held in each such district
60 thereof by the registrars of such district, and the notice hereinbefore
61 required shall specify the place in each such district in which such
62 session is to be held.**]** In each municipality divided into voting districts
63 **[**which elects registrars of voters for the entire municipality,**]** any
64 session for enrollment in such municipality may, if the registrars so
65 decide, be held in each such district by assistant registrars appointed
66 under section 9-192, provided the registrars in the notice hereinbefore
67 required shall specify the place in each such district in which such
68 session is to be held. When such a session is so held in each such
69 district by such assistant registrars, within forty-eight hours after the
70 close of each of such sessions, each of such assistant registrars shall
71 deliver to the registrar of whom he is the appointee a true and attested
72 list or lists, as made by such assistant registrars at such session,
73 showing all enrollments and corrections, if any, by them made,
74 together with a list of all applications rejected under the provisions of
75 sections 9-60 and 9-63.

76 Sec. 4. Section 9-54 of the general statutes is repealed and the
77 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

78 The registrars shall compile separate lists of all qualified electors
79 making application for enrollment according to the declared political
80 preference of such electors. Before each primary at which unaffiliated
81 electors are authorized to vote, under section 9-431, the registrars shall
82 also compile a list of unaffiliated electors which shall be a component
83 of the official checklist to be used at such primary. In those towns
84 having cities or boroughs within, and not coterminous with, their
85 limits, the registrars shall also prepare such lists for use in such cities
86 or boroughs; and when towns, cities or boroughs are divided into
87 wards or voting districts, the registrars shall also prepare such lists for

88 such wards or voting districts. Any town, city, consolidated town and
89 city, or consolidated town and borough may, by vote of its legislative
90 body, require the registrars of voters to designate the party affiliation,
91 if any, of each elector on the registry list with the name of such elector,
92 and, if it is so voted, may provide for the continuance or
93 discontinuance of separate enrollment lists, except as provided in
94 section 9-55. Whenever an elector's name has been removed from the
95 registry list or transferred upon the registry list because of a change of
96 address within the municipality, pursuant to section 9-35, such name
97 shall also, at the same time, be removed from or transferred upon the
98 enrollment list or upon the list of unaffiliated electors, if applicable. **[**In
99 municipalities divided into two voting districts or wards where
100 registrars are elected for each voting district or where assistant
101 registrars are appointed for each voting district under section 9-192,
102 when a transfer of enrollment is made between separate lists of the
103 same political party because of the removal of an elector from one
104 voting district or ward to another voting district or ward in the same
105 municipality, the registrars or assistant registrars from the voting
106 district or ward where the elector formerly resided shall remove the
107 elector's name from the list and shall report the removal to the
108 registrars or assistant registrars of the same political party in the voting
109 district or ward to which such elector has removed, whereupon such
110 registrars or assistant registrars shall add such name to the list of the
111 same political party in such district or ward unless such elector has
112 made application for erasure or transfer of enrollment to the list of
113 another party.**]** In all **[**other**]** municipalities, when a transfer of
114 enrollment between separate lists of the same political party is made
115 because of the removal of an elector from one voting district or ward to
116 another voting district or ward in the same municipality, the registrars
117 of voters shall transfer the name of such elector from the list on which
118 it appears to the enrollment list of the same political party in the voting
119 district or ward to which such elector has removed unless such elector
120 has made application for erasure or transfer of enrollment to the list of
121 another party. All such enrollment lists and lists of unaffiliated electors
122 shall be arranged in the manner provided by section 9-35 for the

123 arrangement of registry lists in such town except as modified by
124 sections 9-51 to 9-65, inclusive, as amended by this act.

125 Sec. 5. Section 9-65 of the general statutes is repealed and the
126 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

127 (a) After the last session of the registrars of voters under section 9-17
128 before each election, the registrars of voters in each municipality shall
129 submit in writing to the Secretary of the State a statement setting forth
130 the total number of names of new electors added to the registry list,
131 and the total number of names of former electors removed from the
132 registry list, in such municipality during the period between the two
133 most recent such last sessions. Such statement shall be submitted
134 annually at a time to be determined by the Secretary of the State. **[**In
135 municipalities divided into two voting districts that elect registrars of
136 voters for each district, such statement shall be so submitted by the
137 registrars of voters of the first district.**]**

138 (b) Not later than a week after the last session of the registrars of
139 voters before an election under section 9-17, the Secretary of the State
140 shall issue a report on the total number of electors on the active and
141 inactive registry list, the total number of electors enrolled on each
142 active and inactive party enrollment list and the total number of
143 unaffiliated electors on the active and inactive registry list in such
144 municipality, as reported by the registrars of voters on the state-wide
145 centralized voter registration system. The Secretary shall omit from
146 such report electors on the last-completed registry list or enrollment
147 lists who have died, but shall include electors who have acquired
148 electoral or enrollment privileges since the last-completed registry list
149 or enrollment lists were perfected.

150 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 9-235 of the general statutes is
151 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
152 *October 1, 2009*):

153 (d) No candidate for an office in an election may be an unoffical
154 checker at such election. **[**In municipalities divided into two voting

155   districts in which registrars are elected for each district, such
156   appointments may be made by the registrars in each district.**]** Such
157   unofficial checkers may remain within the polling place for the
158   purpose of checking their own copy of the registry list to indicate the
159   names of electors who have voted, and may enter and leave the
160   restricted area surrounding the polling place during the hours of
161   election or referendum for the purpose of taking such information
162   outside said area or may communicate such information from the
163   polling place by means of telephones provided by the party for which
164   such checkers were appointed. If any such unofficial checker interferes
165   with the orderly process of voting or attempts to influence any elector,
166   he shall be evicted by the moderator. An unofficial checker appointed
167   pursuant to this section may receive compensation from the
168   municipality in which the election is held.

169   Sec. 7. Section 9-191 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
170   *October 1, 2009*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2009*	9-190
Sec. 2	*October 1, 2009*	9-6
Sec. 3	*October 1, 2009*	9-53
Sec. 4	*October 1, 2009*	9-54
Sec. 5	*October 1, 2009*	9-65
Sec. 6	*October 1, 2009*	9-235(d)
Sec. 7	*October 1, 2009*	Repealer section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
Sections 3 to 7, inclusive, were added in order to remove references to municipalities that elect registrars for each voting district and provide conformity with sections 1 and 2 of this act.

GAE   *Joint Favorable Subst.*